

THE JOY OF VOLUNTEERING

The Benefits of Being a Volunteer

TRANSCRIPT

[TEXT: Young African Leaders Initiative
YALI Voices]

Hello, my name is Celestina Obiekea and this is the benefit of volunteering.

[TEXT: The Joy of Volunteering, The Benefits of Being a Volunteer]

Often when I talk to people about volunteering, the initial response is always the same “what is in it for me”?

Volunteering is not something people always seem enthusiastic about. It can often appear like a nice way of saying ‘work for no reward.’ This is far from what good volunteering actually can be. Many people often think that all reward for work has to come in the form of a pay check. Understanding therefore that not all reward has to be monetary is really the first major step to getting the best out of every volunteer experience.

In addition to the benefits of knowing that you are making a positive contribution to your community and the nation, there are three basic reasons why you should consider being a volunteer.

#1 You may find yourself unemployed or temporarily out of work and you need to keep your skills sharp.

#2 You’re looking to enter a new field and volunteering may be the only real avenue you have for gaining valuable experience in that field.

#3 Volunteering is a great way of developing new networks of friends and collaborations.

So whatever your reasons for volunteering, knowing how to get the best out of every experience is a necessity. There are a lot of people who have built their professional careers through volunteering.

[TEXT: Learn more about what it means to serve others through volunteering at yali.state.gov/serves]

[TEXT: Written and Produced by Mimshach Obioha, 2016 Mandela Washington Fellow, Celestina Obiekea, YALI Regional Leadership Center West-Africa-Accra Participant]

